

A separate but no less troubling problem is the roughly 65,000 women and children held in a displaced persons camp known as al Hol, in the northeast of Syria. Humanitarian conditions at al Hol are dire, and military officials are deeply concerned about the radicalization of those trapped there. Of particular concern, Calvert and Copsey said, are the ISIS wives who are working to build networks and spread the group's violent ideology.

"It's that rather than the detainees that is becoming our biggest worry at the moment," Copsey said.

A huge proportion of the 65,000 people living at al Hol are children, with two-thirds under the age of 18 and over half under the age of 12, Calvert said. The wives of ISIS fighters are carrying out a daily indoctrination program, he said, and so-called "cubs" are "exported back through the rat lines coming out of al Hol that pushes them down into the Badia desert for additional training and use as [ISIS] fighters."

<https://www.defenseone.com/policy/2021/02/coalition-plans-expand-giant-isis-prison-syria/172270/>

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